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[0024] The present inventor has developed methods for preparing and packaging a new strain of *L. casei*, designated KE01. This new strain of *L. casei* was originally from a traditional fermented yoghurt-like Asian dairy product by the present inventor.

Subsequently, the present inventor characterized the isolate and the strain deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, MD, USA)). *Lactobacillus casei* strain KE01 has been given the ATCC depository number PTA-3945 [].

Moreover, the present inventor has developed preparations that maintain *L. casei* KE01 viability such that a clinically effective dose of viable probiotic microorganisms reaches the host.

[0038] One embodiment of the present invention is a dietary supplement comprising approximately from 10^5 to 10^{11} colony forming units of viable lactobacilli per gram. In another embodiment of the present invention the dietary supplement comprises from approximate 10^5 to 10^{11} non-viable lactobacilli per gram. The lactobacillus of the present invention is *Lactobacillus casei* strain KE01 having the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) accession number PTA-3945 []. A colony forming unit (CFU) of *Lactobacillus casei* KE01 equates to one bacterial cell. Although generally only used when referring to viable bacteria, the term colony forming unit, or CFU will also be defined as a single non-viable bacterial cell when referring to embodiments of the present invention composed of non-viable lactobacilli compositions.

[0040] Throughout this specification the present invention may be referred to as a probiotic composition, a lactobacillus containing composition, a dietary supplement, a freeze-dried powder or lactobacillus composition. All of these aforementioned terms mean a composition, regardless of form or the presence or absence of other ingredients, that contains viable or non-viable *Lactobacillus casei* strain KE01 having ATCC accession number PTA-3945 [] or its genetic equivalent as determined using the methods detailed herein.

[0059] A pure culture of *Lactobacillus casei* strain KE01 was deposited with the American Type Culture Collection, Bethesda, MD, which was assigned the number ATCC PTA-3945 [].

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In the claims:

2. (Amended) A probiotic composition comprising *Lactobacillus casei* strain KE01 having ATCC accession number PTA-3945 [____], wherein said *Lactobacillus casei* strain KE01 is derived from a substantially pure culture.

21. (Amended) A probiotic composition comprising:
powdered *Lactobacillus casei* strain KE01 having ATCC accession number PTA-3945 [____] in the amount of from approximately 1 to 5 weight percent;
a disaccharide from approximately 25 to 95 weight percent;
an oligosaccharide from approximately 0 to 10 weight percent; and
a polysaccharide from approximately 0 to 50 weight percent.

22. (Amended) The probiotic composition of claim 21 wherein said powdered *Lactobacillus casei* strain KE01 having ATCC accession number PTA-3945 [____] has approximately 10^5 to 10^{11} CFU per gram and is present in the amount of approximately 3 weight percent.

27. (Amended) A probiotic composition comprising:
approximately 3 weight percent of powdered *Lactobacillus casei* strain KE01 having ATCC accession number PTA-3945 [____] having approximately 10^5 to 10^{11} CFU per gram;
approximately 62 weight percent trehalose;
approximately 5 weight percent fructo-oligosaccharide; and
approximately 30 weight percent malt dextrin.

In the Abstract:

Probiotic compositions are provided that comprise *Lactobacillus casei* strain KE01 having ATCC accession number PTA-3945 [____]. The disclosed probiotic compositions are useful in inhibiting enteric pathogen diseases in animals and in maintaining animal health. Methods of making and using *Lactobacillus casei* strain KE01 probiotic compositions are also disclosed as are methods of using these probiotic compositions.

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